
Stevie G visits the Academy + Meet our new LFC Ladies columnist + A-Z of Anfield + 1965 FA Cup winners reunited
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THE REAL THING
Reds in Madrid
+
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Inside LFCTV
JAVIER MANQUILLO
Right-back at you!
THE FALL AND RISE OF MOENCHENGLADBACH
It's more than a mouthful
SWEET LEFT FOOT
Alberto Moreno plays it cool
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AD BREAK

Reds ace Adam Lallana featured in both of England's recent fixtures, against Slovenia here in the Euro 2016 qualifier at Wembley then the friendly with Scotland at Celtic Park. Raheem Sterling also saw action in both games while Jordan Henderson and Rickie Lambert each appeared in one match.


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INTO THE FRYER

Last summer Alberto Moreno left one red-hot footballing city for another – and while the weather may be different the explosive young defender hasn't looked back since, discovers Simon Hughes

The darkness of Alberto Moreno's brown eyes betrays the relative paleness of his skin. Winter is here but he is ready. It does not matter that he is from the second hottest city in Europe – the transition from the famous 'frying pan of southern Spain' to the freezer of northwest England has not been as plummeting for him as it might be for other 22-year-olds.

He does not have to think for long when considering why he has been able to settle quickly in Liverpool the city and Liverpool the football club, where his buccaneering runs up the wing from left-back make it seem as though he's been around forever. "I am with my family – my parents, my brother and girlfriend are all here," Moreno reveals. "When you have familiarity, when you are feeling happy away from the pitch, it is reflected on the pitch."

There is a taste of Seville near Sefton Park where the Morenos eat Iberian hams sent over from Andalucia. Alberto grins when revealing that his mother – "an excellent cook" – prepares his favourite *racion* of lomo (pork tenderloin) and is teaching him how to carve the meat – a delicate process in Spanish cookery, for they will probably return home next summer once his integration is complete. Diego, Alberto's older brother by two years, will join them, enabling him to spend his weekends like he did before: on the terraces of Estadio Benito Villamarin, the home of Real Betis, where he remains a season-ticket holder – despite Alberto's links with city rivals Sevilla, with whom he played 61 games.

"My friends and family have all been here so it's been easier to settle"

In his book *Morbo: the Story of Spanish Football*, Phil Ball writes that Seville is like Liverpool in that families can be divided by football loyalties 'without too much wailing and domestic gnashing of teeth'. Moreno adds that being "the black sheep of the family" for no particular reason helped him make the sport his profession and ultimately bring him to Anfield.

"As a kid I'd even have a ball at my feet when I was doing my homework"

Moreno could speak "bits" of English before moving here. He is currently taking two or three language lessons a week and studies closely every word during this conversation and, not always needing the interpreter, interjects frequently. "I came in the same month as Javier [Manquillo] and we have the same situation, so the challenge becomes easier."

At Melwood, one is usually not very far from the other and the friendship extends to outside the training ground. If not ping-pong, the pair compete at well-known computer games on well-known game consoles, regularly enjoying meals together with their partners at Lark Lane restaurants.

"There is a spirit, a community," says Alberto. "There are obvious differences between here and Seville where the heat is sometimes unbearable in summer. But a lot of similarities, too, in the way the people think – and their obsession with football."

Moreno's "obsession" began aged four or five, growing up in the Cerro del Aguila district, which is equidistant from the grounds of both Seville's illustrious football clubs in the east and south of the city. "My mum tells a story that even when I was doing school homework at my desk, I'd have a ball at my feet kicking it against the wall while I was writing. I used to go everywhere with a football. I wasn't interested in anything else. If I saw a group of boys on the street, I'd ask to join in even if I did not know them."

Moreno was born in a year where Spain began to change. In 1992, Barcelona held the Olympic Games, Madrid was European Capital of Culture and Seville was chosen to host the Universal Exposition, known commonly as Expo. The responsibilities, according to Michael Robinson, the one-time Liverpool centre-forward turned Spanish television personality, prompted a shift in confidence. "For decades, people lived under the shadow of previous unscrupulous government," he said. "Suddenly there were opportunities ready to be grasped."



Playing in the Bernabeu – and hearing the Liverpool fans


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Expo 92 looked to the past in order to forge a brighter future. Entitled 'The Age of Discovery,' it celebrated the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus' voyage from Seville to the New World. There was employment and Moreno's father worked long hours as a construction site foreman, returning home late to care for his pregnant wife who cleaned primary schools and public buildings for a living. Later, she undertook exams as a mature student, earning a full-time job with the local council.

Moreno was raised in an area where offerings of stamina, character and dedication were as natural as breathing. He describes the people of Cerro del Aguila as "a working class: humble, modest and diligent."

Moreno's efforts have guaranteed that his parents that will never have to work again, despite their protestations. "This makes me very proud," he says. "They have done so much for me, it is only right I give back. Now they can relax and enjoy their life. Although you know what parents are like. They will always try."

Moreno's path towards a more secure existence began aged 10 when he was recruited by Sevilla's youth system. Before, he'd only played seven-a-side football and he can see why it is argued that young Spanish footballers are technically superior. "I was 10 or 11 when I played on a full-sized pitch for the first time. Because the pitch is small, the only option is to pass short. There is no option to pass long. It means that when you play on a bigger pitch, it is instinct to keep possession."

A position was found at centre-forward where his pace enabled him to out-sprint defenders in a footrace. He was moved to left-wing and eventually left-back. There were chances to join Betis – a move his brother encouraged – but Sevilla's infrastructure was more stable as the club leapt into a new era of success under the leadership of a sporting director who set aside two million Euros a year for academy development where Moreno was one of 300 players representing 22 teams. Jose Antonio Reyes, Sergio Ramos, Jesus Navas and Diego Capel were all sold generating a huge income.

Moreno says he passed through the "funnel" and into the first team because of sacrifices. Owing to the rest

"Seville is a lively place but it was worth not going out to progress my career"



That belter at Spurs

needed to play football and because of tournaments held away from the city it was not until, for example, Moreno was 18 that he was able to attend the most celebrated event of Seville's calendar, held each April two weeks after Easter.

"At 16, you begin to have social options. Friends go out partying. I could not afford to do this. Seville is a lively place. Every year there is the city fair where everybody goes out from early evening until sunrise the next morning. It doesn't matter how old you are. Not going is the price of progressing further in your career. But it is worth it."

Being from Seville prepared him for Liverpool. These are cities with rich histories linked by music (flamenco in Seville's case) and two illustrious football teams. Dealing with passion and discipline on derby day is a tricky balancing act. "The derbies were the games I enjoyed most," says Moreno, who scored from the spot during a penalty shootout when Sevilla beat Betis on last season's run to the Europa League final where Benfica were defeated in a tense final. "You are tempering the desire – the will to win, going in hard – with managing the game. There has to be 100 per cent and more but delivered in a controlled way." Moreno dreads the thought of losing because of the aftermath. "You watch the TV, listen to the radio, read the newspapers. There is no escape from the defeat. You develop a thick skin. This helps as a footballer – a profession where

criticism is never far away. I suppose being from a city like this makes you tough, able to take the knocks."

In the summer of 2013, Moreno featured in the Spain Under-21 side that made winning the European Championships in Israel look easy. Moreno says his responsibility in that team was "80 per cent attack" based. The full-backs did not need to defend much because Spain usually had possession.

"You see where the players in that squad are now: Isco, Illarramendi, Tiago, Morata, Koke, Tello, Munain, De Gea, Carvajal – they have all become important for their clubs; clubs like Real Madrid, Barcelona and Bayern Munich, clubs fighting to win their domestic leagues as well as the Champions League. This shows you how strong that we were."

"Spain will build a new team but now my aim is to do well for Liverpool"

Moreno rejects that the tournament domination of the senior Spanish side has put greater pressure on the next generation. "These players – Xavi, Iniesta, Casillas and Sergio Ramos – are unique. Never before has any national team won two European Championships with a World Cup in the middle. The reality is, it will be very difficult for any nation to achieve that again soon, not just Spain. Almost, there is no pressure. The new players need to begin their own identity. At the moment, though, I am not in the squad. My aim is to do well here [at Liverpool]. Only then maybe it will happen."

Upon leaving Sevilla last summer, Moreno was emotional, making his exit after the UEFA Super Cup final defeat to Real Madrid in tears on the pitch. He smiles now, recalling the moment. "I had strong friendships after 12 years. There were lots of memories. It made it really tough. Moving on is never easy."

Yet Spanish players tend to do well in England. The transition has been





"Even when we fall behind you hear the Kop roar straight away"

comfortable and you sense Moreno means it when he describes why it is the best place to play football. "It is the fans. They are different. If you make a bad pass, they get behind you. There has been times when we've fallen behind at Anfield this season and you can hear the Kop roar, encouraging the team straightaway. This does not happen in other cities, other countries. Because the fans are so close to the pitch, it feels like they impact the game more. You can feel their determination and it inspires you. I love it."

Left-back has long been a problem position for Liverpool. Even when the club was at its most successful, the player selected there admitted he was not the best inside his own dressing-room. Alan Kennedy may have scored winning goals in two European Cup finals but from 1981 onwards he conceded that Steve Nicol "had far more natural ability than me" – so much ability that Nicol was deployed in every position across the defence and midfield at one point or another during his Liverpool career.

Moreno wants to be the answer: "Okay, the team can do better. We know that. We have to be honest and we're not where we want to be in the league. It is not for the lack of trying. The levels of commitment in training are high. We're trying to correct this.

"Personally I could not be happier. This environment suits me. The first three months have been fantastic – the city, the club, the way of living. I hope to be here for many years."

Columbus once said that the air in Seville was so soft and so fragrant that it was "delicious" to breathe it. As we finish this interview, the cold snap has arrived, meaning players running about on Melwood's training pitches can see their own breath.

"This is new for me," Moreno says, laughing. "Christmas is nearly here and playing during this time will be new for me too. But I can't wait. This is the tradition in England and traditions should be embraced."

SPAIN'S U21 CLASS OF 2013



Back row

David de Gea: the goalkeeper skippered the Under-21s in the Israel finals, having moved from Atletico Madrid to Manchester United in June 2011

Asier Illarramendi: Basque midfielder who'd helped Real Sociedad qualify for the Champions League before joining Real Madrid after these finals.

Marc Bartra: Catalan centre-half who won 16 caps at this level before graduating to the senior side; has deputised for Javier Mascherano in the Barcelona team.

Inigo Martinez: another Basque defender, he's still with Real Sociedad and has since made one appearance for the Spanish senior team.

Alvaro Morata: striker who won the tournament's golden boot with four goals, he left hometown club Real Madrid for Juventus last July.

Front row

Cristian Tello: winger/forward who scored 11 goals for Barcelona in 59 games before moving on loan to FC Porto last July.

Albert Moreno: made 10 appearances in total for the U21s before his debut for the senior Spanish side v Georgia in their last 2014 World Cup qualifier.

Isco: attacking midfielder, with Malaga at the time, who appeared for Real Madrid against the Reds in this season's Champions League group stage.

Martin Montoya: Catalan full-back who graduated from Barcelona's youth academy and had just completed his first campaign with the seniors before the tournament.

Thiago Alcantara: midfielder born in Italy to Brazilian parents who moved to Spain as a youngster; scored a hat-trick in the final v Italy then left Barca for Bayern Munich.

Koke: Atletico Madrid midfielder (full name Jorge Resurreccion Merodio) who made his senior debut at the 2014 World Cup finals as a substitute for Xabi Alonso v Chile.



LIVERPOOL
5 EURO CUPS 18 LEAGUES.....
LIVERPOOL
RAIN STOPS.
LOYALTY
LASTS FOREVER
That calls for a Carlsberg

GET WITH THE

Aiden Cusick is invited behind the scenes at #LFCWORLD – one of LFCTV's most popular shows

The hit LFCTV show #LFCWORLD first appeared on our screens in August 2013, driven by the club-wide ambition of reaching supporters and increasing fan engagement worldwide.

Liverpool FC's weekly magazine show has a city steeped in football culture and an avid global fan-base for inspiration. It's made by a team determined to produce network-quality output, and now broadcasts into the homes of Reds fans in over 70 countries. Accordingly the programme is firmly established as one of the channel's most popular shows.

#LFCWORLD delivers a colourful, bumper-packed and diverse TV half-hour and, for senior producer Matt Walker and his team, getting each new edition to air every week is no mean feat: several days' worth of filming, sourcing archive material, scripting and editing go into each episode. This process – carried out in the fast-paced environment of the team's production office in Liverpool's city-centre – is often only concluded a matter of hours before #LFCWORLD's regular 8.30pm slot on Thursday night.

Matt and fellow producers Mark Volante and Steve Dickinson shoulder much of the responsibility for the planning of the series and the execution of each episode. The programme's success is largely down to a highly-motivated production team, the editorial freedom afforded the series producer and the feedback of viewers – something that's progressed since the incorporation of the #LFCWORLD hashtag, allowing the audience to engage with the programme-makers and keep track of what's being said about the show through social media.

One of #LFCWORLD's main tasks is ensuring it has a broad appeal to reach Liverpool fans everywhere, no matter how or where they're watching. "Of course nothing is cut-and-dried in terms of what each viewer will like," Matt explains. "In any given week however we ensure there's a combination of content that focuses both on the 'here and now' – for example the first team – as well as the



PROGRAMME



The show delivers a bumper half-hour and always looks to evolve

more historical pieces or items about fan culture. The fact it's a magazine show will ensure there's always plenty of variety and we certainly have the knowledge base to present stories that are interesting for everyone."

Here he name-checks colleagues Steve Hunter and Mark Platt as two primary and encyclopaedic information sources. Matt also knows he can call upon LFCTV presenters Mark Benstead, Claire Rourke and Peter McDowall to provide expert voiceover skills to the programme's many features.

The production team are constantly researching new ideas for dynamic 'stings' – the colourful short clips either side of a feature – whether it's a close-up of the Anfield sprinklers at work, the turf being re-painted or a gloved hand polishing the club's honours

Above and below left: some of the show's innovative stings and graphics

wall. "These 'stings' or 'indents' as they're also known almost work like punctuation, breaking up the show to enhance the viewing experience and are an important part of its identity," says Mark Volante. While they may offer regular viewers something eye-catching, #LFCWORLD is always looking to evolve – apparent by this season's new signing of an old favourite from the football magazine world. Artist Paul Trevillion's 1950s creation *You Are The Ref* originally appeared in Tottenham Hotspur's *Lillywhite* programme then found fame in *Roy of the Rovers*, *Shoot!* and *The Guardian* newspaper under various incarnations for over half-a-century. Now, with the help of motion-graphic designers Tom Littler and Simon Ellis, the artwork – and former official Keith Hackett's true-to-life dilemmas – have been refreshed for a modern TV audience.

Flicking through the stack of *You Are The Ref* books on his desk, Tom is able to hand-pick his favourite scenarios – from eagles interfering with play (!) to outfield players wearing tracksuit bottoms – bringing them to life with software such as Photoshop and Adobe After Effects. A deal with



You Are The Ref is reinvented with an LFC slant

WHO DOES WHAT ON #LFCWORLD



Matt Walker
Series producer – "sourcing and placing content"



Mark Volante
Producer – "creating stylish features"



Steve Dickinson
Assistant producer – "general housekeeping"



Paul Rook
Senior craft-editor – "polishing edits"



Dan Jewell
Video editor – "slotting the show together"



Tom Littler
Motion graphic designer – "bringing images to life"



Mark Benstead
Narrator – "expert elocution"

publisher Faber & Faber will see the cult comic strip appear in all 44 of this season's #LFCWORLD episodes.

As Matt explains: "Like our viewers we're not just Liverpool fans – we're football fans. So it makes sense for us to broaden the net and include items of real interest to anyone with a passion for the game. *You Are The Ref* has become an iconic part of fan culture and to adapt it onto the TV screen for the first time has been a real thrill."

Also new are: *One Moment in Time*, a one-on-one chat with former players re-living a significant date in their Anfield career; a *Did-You-Know?* quiz compiled by club statisticians Ged Rea and Dave Ball; and *The Goal Machine*, delivering a weekly playlist of themed goals from sensational volleys to bullet headers and piledrivers to own-goals.

Its diverse content ensures the show stays fresh on the new HD channel

While this diverse array of content ensures #LFCWORLD stays fresh, the channel it sits on has also undergone exciting changes. The show looks better than ever thanks to LFCTV's recent HD breakthrough with the channel now operating 24 hours a day, 365 days a year in the UK and Ireland. Worldwide, #LFCWORLD is viewed either on the channel or as part of LFCTV's three-hour weekly 'International Block' which bring in a combined 'reach' of 120 million households across the globe.

With so much going on at once, the production schedule is stringent. Each team member is required to self-edit their own work before video specialists Dan Jewell and Paul Rook toothcomb their own way through – ensuring every last bit is thoroughly polished and technically compliant. Once that's done, it's over to Mark Benstead to add the voiceover. "They do the work and I'm the man who reads it," he says, clutching the latest script and heading for the channel's air-conditioned recording booth.

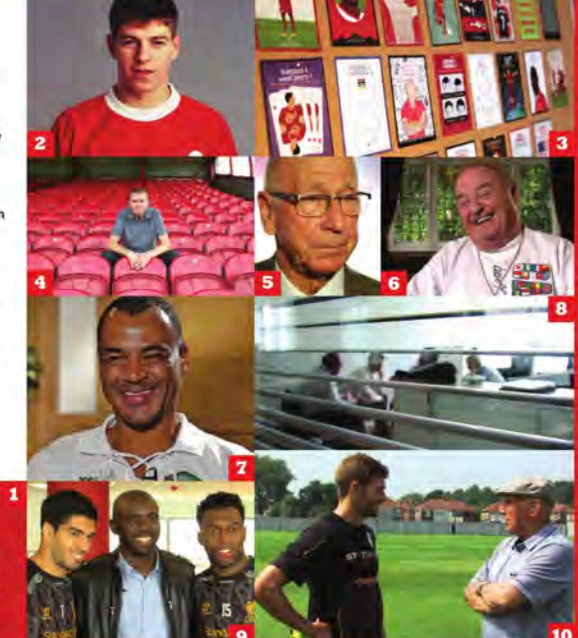
With their deadline looming, the team gather for the 'Play Out': watching back the finished article for the last time before it airs. Within hours, whether on LFCTV or online via LFCTV GO, the episode is being enjoyed by fans in the UK and across the world. But, as is the way at this club, it's not long before the #LFCWORLD team go again.

Each new episode of #LFCWORLD premieres on LFCTV at 8.30pm Thursday, repeated throughout the week at 3.30pm. It can be watched in the UK on Sky Channel 429 and Virgin Channel 544, and accessed worldwide on LFCTVGO, Liverpool FC's on-demand video service at www.liverpoolfc.com/video.

10 STANDOUT#LFCWORLD MOMENTS

1 **LFC shirt collector Colin Wright reveals his incredible haul of Reds jerseys**
2 On the occasion of Stevie G's 600th appearance, coaches Hugh McAuley & Dave Shannon recall the emergence of a lad destined for the top
3 **How the 2013/14 campaign was brilliantly captured in postcards by local designer Dave Williams**
4 Kopite and former footballer Mark Maddox on living with Motor Neurone Disease
5 **An emotional Sir Bobby Charlton remembers Bill Shankly on the centenary of Shanks' birth**
6 Gerry Marsden celebrates 50 years of *You'll Never Walk Alone*
7 **Brazil legend Cafu praises the man he calls his "successor" – Jon Flanagan!**
8 Inside Operation Resolve: behind the scenes at the on-going Hillsborough investigations
9 **Ex-Bolton midfielder Fabrice Muamba visits Melwood in his new career as a TV presenter**
10 The legendary Ronnie Moran is welcomed back to Melwood by Brendan and the team

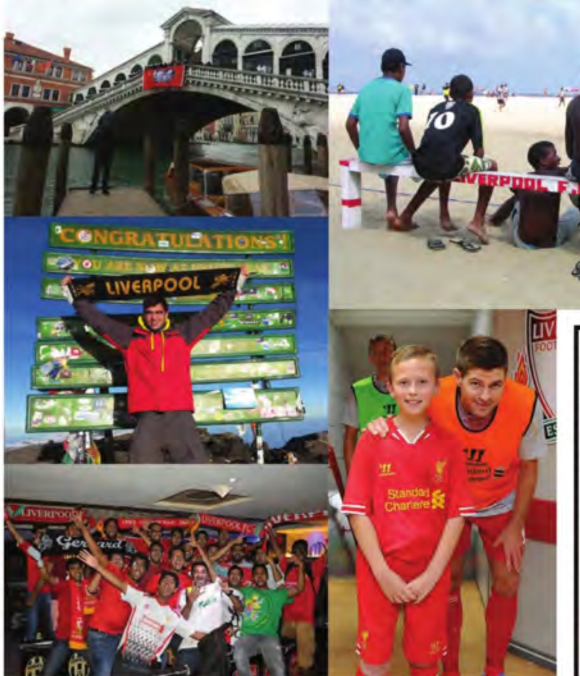
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CALLING ALL REDS

#LFCWORLD is calling on Reds fans to get involved at the end of each show as part of a weekly Supporters Gallery. For a chance to be featured, simply email your photos to lfcworld@liverpoolfc.com including the names of the sender and those featured and where the image was taken

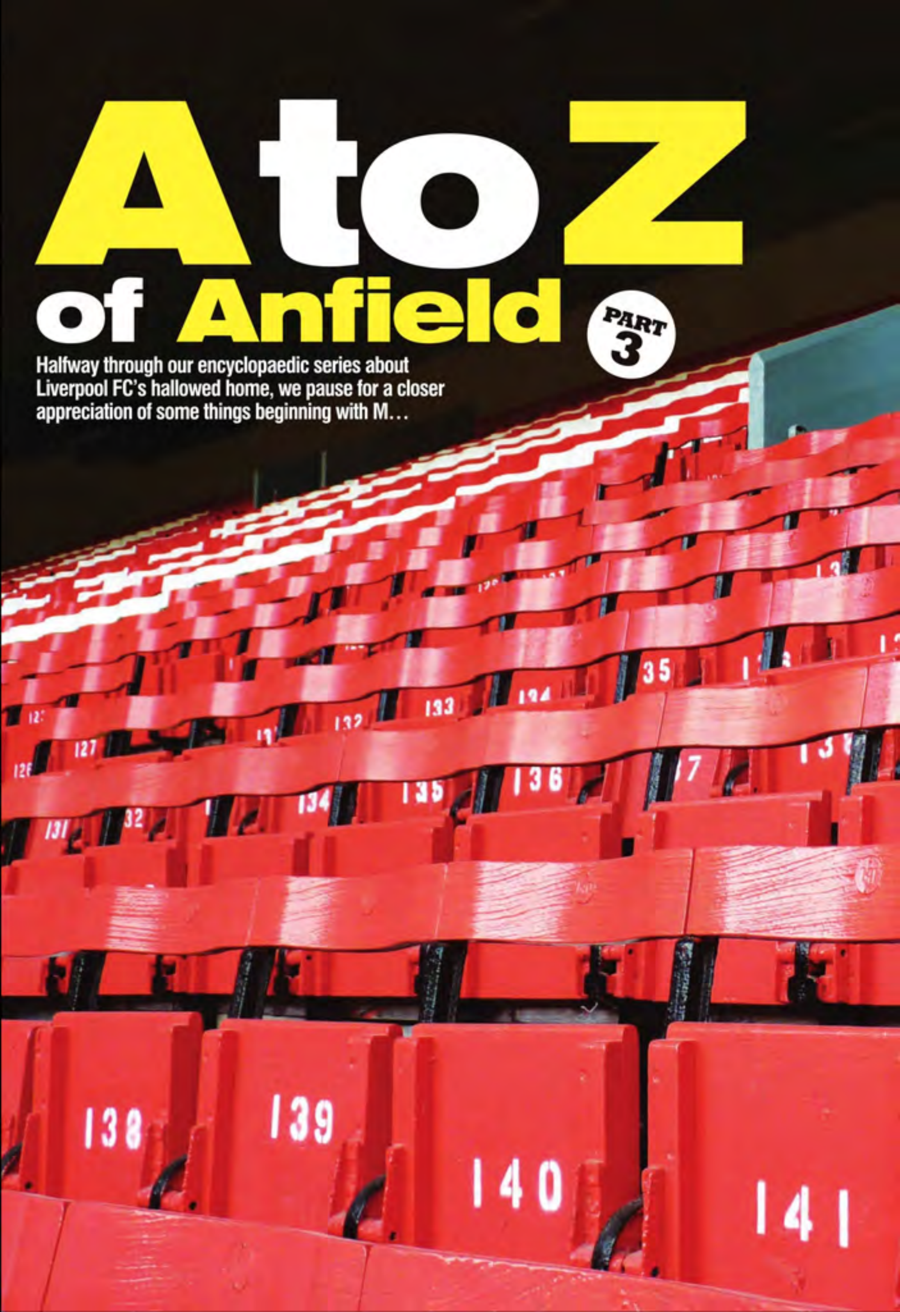




HOW TO GET LFCTV HD

Adding LFCTV HD to your Sky package costs just £7 a month, or 9 Euros a month in the Rep of Ireland. To subscribe or upgrade, simply call 08442 414 906 in the United Kingdom and 0818 904 092 in the Republic of Ireland, with lines open between 8.30am and 11pm, seven days a week. You can also now purchase online at sky.com/lfctv or by visiting channel 429 and pressing the red button.





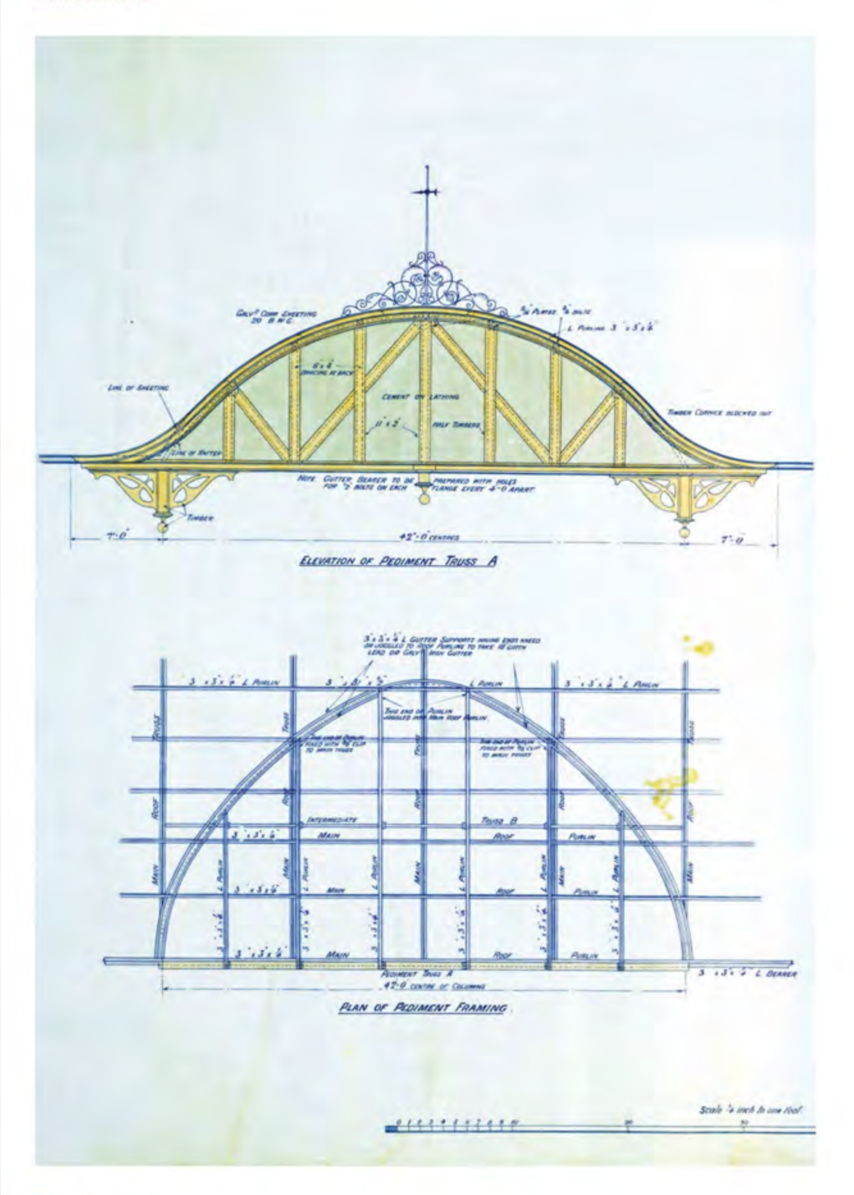
A to Z of Anfield

PART 3

Halfway through our encyclopaedic series about Liverpool FC's hallowed home, we pause for a closer appreciation of some things beginning with M…



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ELEVATION OF PEDIMENT TRUSS A
PLAN OF PEDIMENT FRAMING



is for **MAIN STAND** – in its current guise dating from 1973 when it underwent a facelift to become the most modern of the stadium's four stands at the time. Having turned 41 last year, it's now the oldest. It's still the matchday entrance for players, officials and members of the media, housing the dressing-rooms, what was once the famous Boot Room (now press room) and the *This Is Anfield* tunnel leading to the dugouts.

The original structure was named after nearby Lake Street (off Walton Breck Road) and dated from 1906, replacing an even older stand which had been dismantled and moved across to the Kemlyn Road side of the pitch. It had a mock-Tudor 'eyebrow' gable on its roof, aligned with the halfway line of the pitch – a design feature characteristic of its famous architect Archibald Leitch – that was a regular backdrop to official Liverpool FC first-team shots in the 1950s and 60s (like the photograph above). It was from a balcony along the Main Stand that Bill Shankly and his first great team famously celebrated their League title in April 1964 with an ecstatic Anfield crowd, following a 5-0 win over Arsenal.

The stand was Glasgow-born Leitch's first built from reinforced


HENNEBIQUE FERRO-CONCRETE

Football Grand Stand, Liverpool.
Built for The Liverpool Football Club.
Engineer: Archibald Leitch.



concrete, using a similar engineering technique to that involved in the construction of the Royal Liver Building on the city's waterfront, completed five years later in 1911. Leitch also designed the Oakfield Road Embankment, soon to be renamed the Spion Kop, among many other stadium commissions. Today around half-a-dozen of his football stands survive around the country, including ones at Goodison Park, Craven Cottage and Ibrox. Like Anfield's Main Stand, the core of one of his stands remains at Tottenham's White Hart Lane.

The upgrade of 1973 cost a reported £600,000, and the stand was officially re-opened by the Duke of Kent who was wearing a blue-and-white shirt!



The pylons were replaced by powerful new lights in the early 1970s

As part of the update the stadium's old pylon floodlights were pulled down and powerful new lights were installed along the top of the Main Stand and its Kemlyn Road counterpart on the other side of the pitch. Eight years later, more seats were installed to replace the traditional Paddock terracing at the lower front of the Main Stand.





Further redevelopment plans for the Main Stand were announced earlier this year, proposing to take the seating capacity to 20,500 (at the moment it's just over 12,000) with three tiers, a widened player tunnel, new team benches, media tribune, premium seating and wheelchair viewing positions.

Some of Leitch's original blueprint drawings for the Main Stand are shown here, along with close-ups of the wooden seating with brass number-plates from 1906, still in use today. You can almost here their distinctive clatter as the ref's whistle blows for kick-off, half-time and full-time. Club curator Stephen Done recorded these original features on camera for posterity, explaining: "I did it as part of a photo-documentation. The Paddock back wall is of considerable significance and the varnished wooden seats date back to the original structure, so they're absolutely authentic."

"Absolutely authentic are the varnished wooden seats"


ANFIELD
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"This club's incredible history is now housed in one place"

And for **MUSEUM** – the all-new interactive Liverpool Story officially opened by Brendan Rodgers in 2013. The boss unveiled a plaque to mark the moment and said: "This club has an incredible history and to see it all housed in one place is brilliant. Fans from across the world can enjoy the real history of their club in a new and exciting way." Every visitor is now provided with a multimedia handset offering a 40- minute commentary by Phil Thompson, who shares his experiences of being a fan, player, captain, assistant manager and manager. There's also a chance to see the club's European trophies and have a picture taken in the state-of-the-art photo booth with a choice of nine different LFC images.



And for **MATCHDAY** – and special routines for every fan: what time to set off, which lucky scarf to wear, where to meet before kick-off; all part of the ritual and romance of Anfield. This season has seen significant changes around the stadium as part of the area's regeneration plan, but the Family Park is open as usual on Anfield Road three hours before kick-off on a matchday while the club continues to advise supporters and local residents of any further developments.



Since the mid 90s they've made for stunning sights



And for **MOSAICS** – since the mid 1990s they have made for some of the most spectacular sights seen on the Spion Kop. From a giant yellow LFC back in 1995 to the legends SHANKS, GH (for Gerard Houllier), KOP 100, THE TRUTH and SAMI (Hyypia) to this season's display of five European Cups for the return to UEFA Champions League action, they have marked various historic events and anniversaries.



GRANDES CLUBES TIENEN GRANDES SEGUIDORES

So said the banner welcoming Liverpool fans to the Bernabeu for last month's Champions League group match, as David Cottrell reports



Talk about a double-edged compliment. On the mobbed metro ride back from Santiago Bernabeu station to Puerta del Sol and its restorative bars and restaurants, a Real Madrid fan overhears our post-match conversation – something along the lines of a good portion of tonight's 79,283 crowd being neither Real nor Reds supporters but what might be termed, in the nicest possible way, 'football tourists'.

"This is true," says the fan on the train. "People will come from everywhere for a game like this. It's incredible. Liverpool has no success for years but it is still a big club and [attracts] a big crowd. Why is this?"

Because, well, we are Liverpool. *Quien sabe, amigo* – who knows, pal – but no wonder all the half-and-half scarves on the stalls outside the stadium had sold-out before kick-off. Such is the pulling power of two European aristos that between them have landed the big one 15 times.

This writer has been lucky enough to acquire press accreditation for the match, so spending a spiky hour searching for (1) the right collection point for ID to get into the ground, then (2) the actual bit I'm supposed to be sitting in, is a tiny price to pay for this once-in-a-lifetime privilege. That'll learn me for *no hablo mucho espanol.*

The view from the fourth tier, right on the halfway-line and high above the dugouts and technical areas, is as glorious as it sounds. To the left, equally steep and behind the south goal, is a group of around 1,500 white-jerseyed *socios*, Real's singing section. On the right, occupying a two-tiered swathe behind the opposite goal, are the red hordes, in fine voice. 'NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THIS ARL BIRD' reads one of the banners. Among the others: 'OOOHH CAMPIONE'; 'WE'RE NOT FAMOUS ANYMORE'; 'LIVERPOOL FOOTBALL CLUB YESTERDAY TODAY FOREVER'; and 'MARSH LANE'.

On 69 minutes Steven Gerrard comes on for Lucas and applause rings round the whole stadium, the home fans reciprocating the appreciation for class shown by Anfield's faithful a fortnight ago. Like Anfield there are plans to upgrade the Bernabeu, not least a new retractable roof scheduled for completion by 2017, as if the whole joint didn't look spectacular enough already.

The best football grounds, a fellow Kopite once said, are just that: no running tracks or frippery, built for football and nothing else. Later this evening our snap poll places the Bernabeu above Nou Camp and slightly below, or maybe joint-top with, San Siro. Cathedrals, one and all, just as much as the floodlit Sagrada Familia which loomed above me last night after a schlepp along Barcelona's endless Avinguda Diagonal. It was positively sultry in the Catalan capital. Here in Madrid under a big waxing moon it's getting on for arctic.

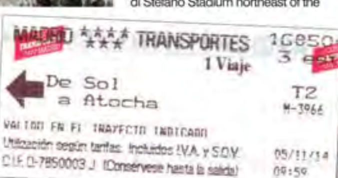

The Bernabeu begins to fill


Barcelona the night before

With all the direct flights to Madrid long gone, the next best itinerary was Liverpool John Lennon airport-Barcelona El Prat-Barcelona Sants train station-Madrid Atocha-and back again, in roughly 50 hours. Quite a few Reds have had the same idea: the young and old, the Euro-virgins and veterans, the post-Istanbul-ers and pathfinders. Some, though, are disembarking at Barcelona then heading for the holiday resort of Salou from where a special minibus will be making the 'two or three hour trip' (260 miles) from Shankly's Bar to the match.

Earlier today Madrid's Plaza Mayor stood in as Anfield South, but not for everyone. Some Liverpool fans chose instead to watch the Under-19s take on their Real counterparts in a UEFA Youth League match at the Alfredo di Stefano Stadium northeast of the

The best football grounds are just that: built for football alone




Plains in Spain: on the train from Barcelona to Madrid



El ciggie break


Madrid's symbol: the bear and the strawberry tree



It was a Real crunch encounter

city. Others opted for a spot of local history at tabernas like Casa Labra, famous as both the birthplace of the Spanish Socialist Party and the home of the best *bacalao* or salted cod in town, *esta acogedora cuidad que es el Madrid de todos los espanoles* – this charming city that is the Madrid of all Spaniards – as the welcome on the table napkins inside says. And one or two ventured down to the Reina Sofia Museum to see Picasso's stupefying *Guernica* only to find it was shut all day Tuesday till tomorrow. Good job this metro's so cheap.

The morning-after-the-narrow-defeat-the-night-before brings sore

A minibus had been laid on from Shankly's Bar over in Salou to the game



Fans and banners in Plaza Mayor

The Reds supporters occupied two tiers and did not stop singing

heads but no disgrace, on or off the field, along with the following headline in Diario AS, the Spanish daily sports newspaper: *Cinco mil hinchas 'reds' tomaron la Plaza Mayo* – Five thousand Reds fans take the Plaza Mayor. And the story underneath goes something like this:

'To the sound of *You'll Never Walk Alone*, Plaza Mayor yesterday became the meeting-point of the 5,000 Liverpool fans who travelled to Madrid for the match of Champions.

'From early in the morning', it continued, 'hundreds of English supporters filled the terraces of the central square and its surroundings. "Everybody in Liverpool knows that the



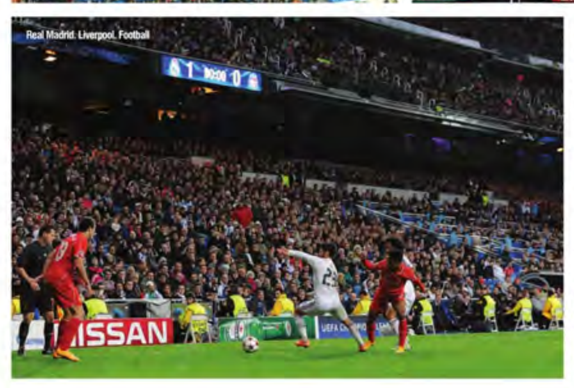
Adam v Alvaro



The home side's singing section was in good voice



As were the travelling Reds facing them



Real Madrid. Liverpool. Football

Plaza Mayor is the place – we'll gather here to go to the Bernabeu," revealed one fan over a beer. Minutes earlier, the police had to make an appearance for removing flags that supporters had placed around the statue of Felipe III. However the day was running smoothly [and] the good mood was the dominant note throughout the day. But that could not dispel the pessimism of the fans who ended up leaving the Bernabeu with a 1-0 loss.

'Once in the stadium they were greeted with a banner on the Fondo Sur [South Stand]: "Welcome Liverpool supporters. The big clubs have big fans." The Reds were placed on the Fondo Norte's third and fourth tiers and did not stop singing throughout the match'.

Thank you, Madrid. A point or three would've been nice but it's still been a blast. See you again, some day soon.



TEAM



LFC

The first team spend a special day at the Liverpool FC Academy – meeting young players from various age groups and imparting plenty of wisdom along the way



The Reds manager is on-site for the second such event of his tenure

Spanish stars Moreno and Enrique have fun with some of the players

Emre Can on the ball during a busy afternoon at the Kirkby Academy


WARRIOR
L.F.C.
Garuda



Goalkeeper Simon Mignolet oversees play on a small-size pitch

Philippe Coutinho shares a joke with some of the Academy pupils

Senior men's players and stars from Liverpool Ladies looking on from the touchline

Ladies players Katie Zelem and Gemma Bonner with Steven Gerrard and Rickie Lambert

One handshake this young player won't forget for a long time

Striker Mario Balotelli is among the famous faces happy to spend time passing on advice to the juniors



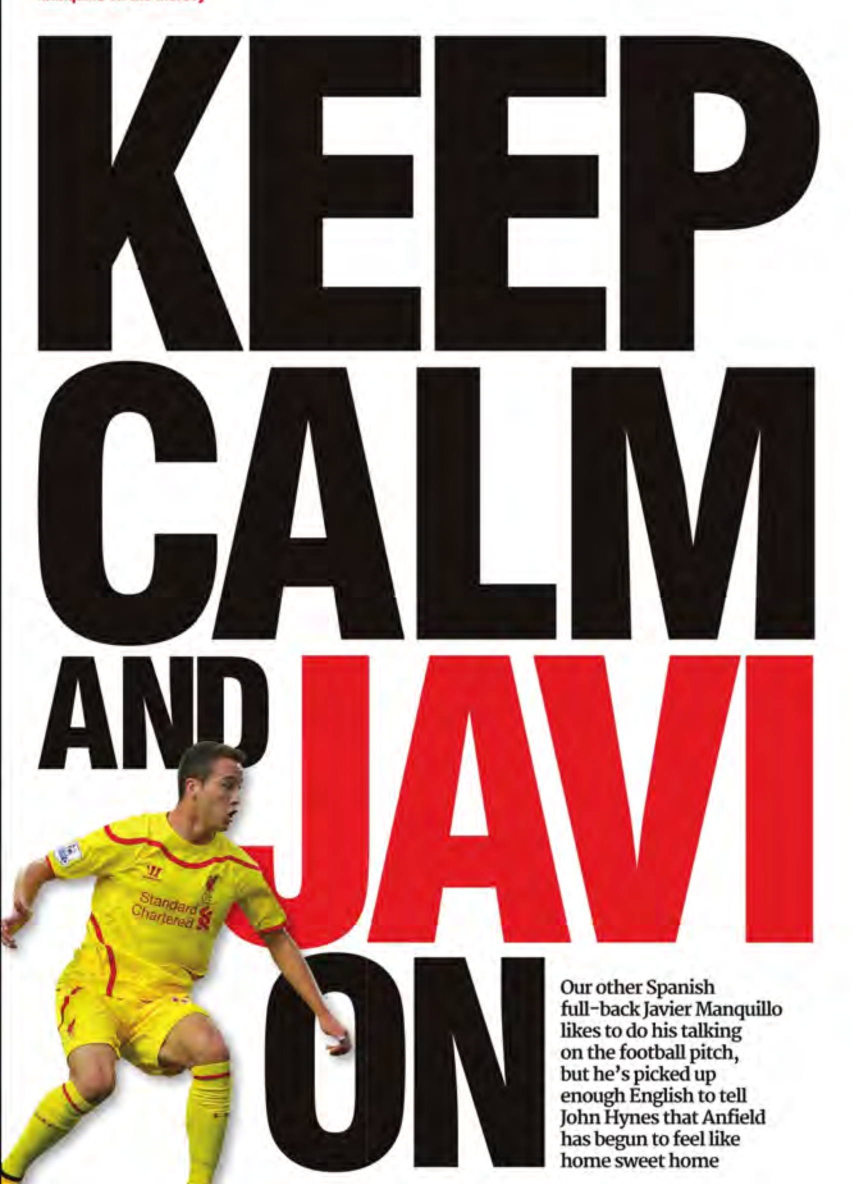
Defender Martin Skrtel poses for a picture with one potential Liverpool FC star of the future

More action with Alberto and Jose on one of the pitches at the Academy

At the end of the day it's time to gather round and listen to a little advice from a few of the coaches

The skipper with Academy coach Michael Yates who supervises the Under-6 to Under-9 youth teams

KEEP CALM AND JAVI ON



Our other Spanish full-back Javier Manquillo likes to do his talking on the football pitch, but he's picked up enough English to tell John Hynes that Anfield has begun to feel like home sweet home


6b
15a
15b
24b
L.F.C.
Standard
Chartered

With an events calendar that includes a garlic festival in autumn and anisette liquor-based celebrations in spring, the small town of Chinchon – situated southwest of Madrid – regularly attracts numerous tourists. The 45-minute bus journey is one of the most highly recommended day trips for those staying in the Spanish capital.

While visitors regularly travel in that direction, going the opposite way became a significant part of Javier Manquillo's childhood. One of three boys – twin brother Victor plays upfront and left Rayo Vallecano B to join Alcorcon B [both near Madrid] in the summer – Manquillo grew up in a football-mad home among the 5,000 inhabitants of Chinchon.

"It is a small place, I don't think too many footballers have come from there," he explains with the help of a translator. "Sport was the main pastime and all that interested me. I don't know what else I would have done if I hadn't become a footballer.

"There was no real history of playing the game in our family. They were just fans of Atleti [Atletico Madrid]. That is our team, although my family also liked football in general. I think that's the reason why I didn't grow up with a particular Atleti player as my hero. Instead I admired greats like Diego Maradona or Pele."

Chinchon, the local side which carries the name of the town, was the team where Manquillo began to play regularly. "Even then I was a right-back. I've always been a right-back. I don't think I've ever played in any other position. The club helped me to make my first steps in football. My family too of course – they always took me to training and games."

The full-back's progress with Chinchon brought the attention of nearby Real Madrid scouts, who promptly signed the twins. But at the age of 13 Victor was released. Javier was so upset by the decision that he decided to leave too.

"Some people might have thought I was crazy," he says of the choice. "But I just wanted to play with my brother, that was more important to me than what club we were at."

The teenagers didn't have to wait long to find a new team, with Atletico signing them up. Their parents would regularly drive the three-quarters-of-an-hour from Chinchon to training and games as Javier moved up through the academy ranks, although he never took progressing to senior level as guaranteed.

"It was difficult to break through because there is so much competition, like at every club. I never just assumed I would become a professional. Obviously it was what I wanted and worked for. But it was only when I made my professional debut that I thought it would become a reality. When that happened I said to myself: 'I can do this, I need to grab this opportunity, I can't let it escape'.

"Now I need to keep improving. It's not easy but that's what every professional has to do."

Despite only turning 20 back in May – he looks even younger in person – Manquillo possesses an air of calmness that must have played some part in him progressing this far in his career. "Tranquilo Manquillo [calm Manquillo]!" he quips in his native tongue. "That's how I've always



"I didn't really have a hero at Atletico – I liked Maradona and Pele"

With the boss and Alberto Moreno at Melwood



Reading the club magazine: great taste Javier!

lived my life. Not too much bothers me. Of course I get annoyed if we lose or don't play well, but generally I am a happy person.

"I think I am able to forget about football when I need to by spending time with my family and friends or doing something like going to my English classes. If you do that you think about something else – particularly the classes because I really have to concentrate hard."

One recent example of the normally-relaxed Spaniard seeing red came during his European debut for Liverpool, against Ludogorets at Anfield. On that 16 September evening all seemed to be going to plan when Mario Balotelli opened the scoring in front of the Kop on 82 minutes. That was until Daniel Abalo Paulos produced an equaliser for the Bulgarian visitors in the last minute of normal time. Like the majority inside the ground Javier was devastated. Fortunately, unlike those in the stands, he could do something to rectify the situation.

"Their goal really annoyed me," he says. "We had lost the lead and the points at such a late stage in the game. So I wanted to do something to change things in the short time we had left. I didn't know what was going to happen as I went forward, but thankfully I managed to earn the

penalty that Steven [Gerrard] scored."

Judging by that description of his attacking foray is it fair to assume that some of Manquillo's thrusts upfield are based on instinct? "Yes, probably," he confirms. "I don't think about it too much. It depends on the game or the particular moment. If I feel I can cause the opposition some damage by going forward then I go. But if I think it will help us more by staying back, then I stay."

As he freely admits, Manquillo is still adapting to the rigours of football on these shores. Prior to arriving in England he thought he had a reasonable idea about what to expect. "I had watched lots of English football on TV before I came here. But that can't prepare you properly for it. It's only through playing and experiencing it that you can really learn. It took me about two minutes of the first Premier League match against Southampton to realise that.

"There was a tackle and I slowed down because I thought the referee was going to blow his whistle, as he would have probably done in Spain. I waited and waited but he didn't. Instead he just waved play on. That made me realise English football is definitely different."

Another element of the game in this country that has struck Manquillo during his early months as a Liverpool player is the idea of away supporters turning up in big numbers. "Spanish

"In the Bernabeu with over 79,000 we could still hear our own fans"

football doesn't really have that. It's not part of the football culture. Whereas everywhere we go Liverpool fans are there. In the Bernabeu with 79,000 Real fans we could still hear our supporters. Even if they are only a small group they make a lot of noise. As a player that is great to hear. It gives you more confidence."

Confidence. The unquantifiable part of a footballer's make-up that is regularly mentioned when analysing performances. So where does Manquillo get his self-belief from and how does he maintain it?

"It's very important to feel good about your own ability," he reasons. "I am more confident when I play lots of games in a row. That's what a player needs to feel good and produce their best. The way we train also gives me confidence. It's intense – similar to what we did at Atleti – and when you train in that way it makes you feel like you are ready."

Manquillo's confidence with the English language is also improving, although it still needs some work. "I've had a few moments in shops where I can't find something that I want and have tried to ask about it. The language barrier makes it very confusing for the person I'm speaking to. But I'll keep trying."

At that moment another Spanish voice joins the conversation. "We know who's better at English," Alberto Moreno declares as he walks into the room while pointing at himself with a huge grin across his face. Manquillo reluctantly acknowledges his compatriot's claim before shaking his head wearily. Clearly he is accustomed to his fellow full-back's sense of humour, as the pair have already struck up a good friendship.

"We've been joking about who is going to score more goals or provide more assists," Manquillo points out. "Alberto is winning at the moment but it's not over yet. I've scored for the youth team and 'B' team in the past, usually about one or two per season. But I'm still young. I know I can improve in that area. That's why I came here – to become a better footballer."

Manquillo initially joined Liverpool on a two-year loan deal, which expires in 2016. Obviously the very nature of the transfer means there is a possibility he could return to Atletico at some point. But that isn't even a consideration for the Spaniard. "My team is LFC now and here's where I want to stay. It feels like home already."



On the ball in Europe



Anfield, April 1978: Moenchengladbach wall with McDermott accessory



BORUSSIA WITH LOVE

Liverpool became inextricably linked with the fortunes – past, present and future – of Borussia Moenchengladbach, explains Simon Hughes

Bayern Munich have won 24 Bundesliga titles, five European Cups / Champions Leagues and are by far the most successful club in German football. Yet their dominance is a relatively recent phenomenon.

Like Liverpool they emerged in the second part of the 20th century. Before the start of the 1970s they had collected just two domestic championships in the previous 40 years when the Bundesliga was monopolised by Offenbach, Frankfurt, Kaiserslautern and Nurnberg.

Bayern's rise coincided with that of Borussia Moenchengladbach. The clubs were promoted to the Bundesliga in 1965 and for the next two decades the trophy cabinets of each were regularly furnished. By 1977 – the year Moenchengladbach faced Liverpool in the European Cup final – both had claimed five league titles and it's believed that had Moenchengladbach beaten Liverpool that evening, consequent histories may have been different.

"The supporters of Liverpool and Moenchengladbach share a special relationship," says Uli Hesse, whose acclaimed book *Tor!* tells the story of German football. "Yet Gladbach fans realise this defeat to Liverpool enabled Bayern to accelerate into a new era of success, leaving them behind."

Gladbach's coach was Hennes Weisweiler. A Swiss-born defender who made his name at Cologne – once playing 85 minutes of a game with a fractured skull – he'd

masterminded Borussia's promotion to the top flight just 12 months after his appointment, using a squad of talented youngsters, notably Gunter Netzer and Juup Heynckes. There was also Horst Koppel, an industrious midfielder, who took to the field wearing a toupee, and Wilfried Hannes, a sweeper who played out his career with one eye.

Bayern achieved the same feat at the same time with a squad filled with teenagers, among them Franz Beckenbauer. They finished third in their first Bundesliga season (1965/66) with Moenchengladbach 13th. While Netzer and Beckenbauer regularly competed for the German footballer of the year award, their respective clubs developed a keen rivalry.

"The main difference between them was one of style," Hesse continues. "Gladbach's game was built around counter-attacks, often initiated by Netzer whose legendary 50-yard passes split defences and invariably found their target. Bayern, on the other hand, liked to keep possession of the ball, applying the pressure that would crack even the most solid defence."

In 1969, with Beckenbauer withdrawn into central defence, Bayern won the title. Two years later it was Moenchengladbach's turn. But while Bayern would prevail on the continental stage, winning three European Cups in a row between 1974 and 1976, Gladbach's progress was foiled by Liverpool, firstly in the two-legged UEFA Cup final of 1973.

Liverpool, fresh from securing their first league title in seven years, were yet to lift a European trophy. Borussia meanwhile supplied half of the West German national team that would be crowned world champions 12 months later. Reds boss Bill Shankly was well briefed by his scouts ahead of the first leg at Anfield on 10 May: "We'll start with an XI which we think can play against their system. We might try a team at the start which will probe the Germans, then we can always bring on someone else to cause trouble."

Visiting coach Weisweiler had been a spectator at Anfield when the First Division championship was secured. "Keegan, Heighway, Hughes and Lawler are all very dangerous players," he said, "but I didn't see the real Liverpool that day [against Leicester City]. Their players looked a little worried knowing they needed only one point to win the league. I expect them to be more exciting [against us]. But in Germany we are known as an attacking side and we are not going to play defensive football here."

The following evening, as storm clouds gathered above Anfield and the players slid in the rain, play was halted in the 27th minute with the scoreline 0-0. It was agreed that the teams should try again 24 hours later. Crucially, tactical plans had been revealed and Shankly realised that Netzer, normally a ball-playing midfielder, was being deployed in a sweeper role to negate the threat of Keegan. In response Shankly recalled John Toshack and dropped Brian Hall to the bench, and the next evening Gladbach struggled with the Welshman's aerial threat. It resulted in a 3-0 win for the Reds with goals from Keegan (2) and Larry Lloyd, and Ray Clemence saving a Heynckes penalty.

Liverpool and Shankly were on the threshold of lifting their first European trophy and Weisweiler displayed humility: "They are the best team we have met in the competition – full of power and dynamism." Despite the compliments and the convincing first-leg lead, Shankly insisted it was "only half-time. I don't think any team has ever won a major honour at home and in Europe in the same season – and we want to do just that."





Wonderbar–Keegan sends 'em Moenchen sad back!

Daily Post headline after the 1973 UEFA Cup final first leg at Anfield

"In time Gladbach became 'sexy' in a James Dean kind of way"

Liverpool were to meet a 'torture-chamber,' according to the *Liverpool Echo*, inside Gladbach's intimate, atmospheric Bokelbergstadion – where Inter Milan had lost 7-1 the previous season. When the Reds conceded two early goals, Shankly feared the worst. "The Germans oozed class in the first half and we couldn't keep up with them," he said. "But I knew they'd tire and we deserved to hold out." His side prevailed on aggregate, 3-2, and thousands of fans welcomed them home at Speke Airport. "Teams on the Continent are beginning to get frightened of Liverpool," Netzer told the press at the final whistle, "but I hope we get the chance to avenge this defeat."

The opportunity did arise, of course, in the European Cup final of 1977. By then Netzer had left for Real Madrid but new coach Udo Lattek had guided



Gladbach to three Bundesliga titles in a row. The final in Rome followed Liverpool's 2-1 defeat to Manchester United in the FA Cup final. That result ruled out a historic treble for the Reds, who'd clinched their 10th league championship, while all the paper talk was about Keegan's imminent move abroad, with another German club, Hamburg, the likely destination.

A day before the final, with the Liverpool squad now resting in their Rome hotel, boss Bob Paisley described Moenchengladbach as "one of the greatest teams in the world" yet "one we can beat if we play well." He added: "We realise that we are representing the country and we won't let anyone down. You couldn't get a better team to tackle this job." Goals from Terry McDermott, Tommy Smith and Phil Neal once again saw Liverpool overcome their German opponents. The Reds were champions of Europe and deservedly so, according to opposing captain Berti Vogts: "We didn't handle their movement. Keegan was so difficult to mark. But we'll beat them one day."

Twelve months on, with Keegan now replaced by Kenny Dalglish, Gladbach did beat Liverpool but still exited the European Cup at the semi-final stage. Ian Callaghan played his 857th and last game for the Reds in the 2-1 first-leg loss in Germany, but a 3-0 win in the Anfield return secured a place in the final against FC Bruges.

Keegan unleashed (above) and the 1973 Gladbach side (right)

That Moenchengladbach have not reached the same heights since makes them "sexy in a James Dean sort of way," claims Hesse. He argues that most supporters in Germany remember Moenchengladbach in the Seventies because of near-misses rather than success. Domestically, even a stunning 12-0 win over Borussia Dortmund on the final day of the 1977/78 season was not enough to win the league – they needed another three goals to overturn a 15-goal swing before the match.

By the early 80s the Bayern-Moenchengladbach rivalry had receded. While Bayern continued to win trophies, the closest Gladbach came to another title was third place in 1983/84, level on points with eventual champions VfB Stuttgart and runners-up Hamburg but with an inferior goal-difference. The decline was originally blamed on Lattek not rebuilding an ageing squad.

Today, Moenchengladbach – like Bayern – play in a state-of-the-art stadium, holding close to 60,000 spectators. This season, for the first time in a generation, there are hopes they can provide a genuine challenge to Bayern at the top of the table under another Swiss coach, Lucien Favre, who arrived in 2011. At the time of writing, six points separated Gladbach in third from Bayern at the top. "Nobody will ever rival Weisweiler's status," Hesse says. "But Favre might get close if he accomplishes what appears impossible."



HOW THEY LINE UP

EUROPEAN CUP SEMI-FINAL

LIVERPOOL

1 Ray CLEMENCE
2 Phil NEAL
3 Tommy SMITH
4 Phil THOMPSON
5 Ray KENNEDY
6 Emlyn HUGHES (Capt.)
7 Kenny DALGLISH
8 David FAIRCLOUGH
9 Steve HEIGHWAY
10 Graeme SOUNESS
11 Terry McDERMOTT
Substitutes:

MOENCHENGLADBACH

1 Wolfgang KLEFF
2 Berti VOGTS (Capt.)
3 Wilfried HANNES
4 Horst WOHLERS
5 Rainer BONHOF
6 Carsten NIELSEN
7 Allan SIMONSEN
8 Herbert WIMMER
9 Jupp HEYNCKES
10 Christian KULIK
11 Ewald LIENEN
Substitutes:

WHAT HAPPENED TO...

Gunter Netzer (right): spent three seasons at Real Madrid and retired in 1978, aged 34. Now executive director of a Swiss sports-rights management company.

Hennes Weisweiler: went on to coach Barcelona, Cologne and New York Cosmos; died in 1983 aged just 63, while boss of Grasshopper Zurich.

Udo Lattek: enjoyed spells at Barcelona, Bayern Munich, Cologne, Schalke 04 and Borussia Dortmund. Now 79, he's a pundit with German sports channel DSF.



The forgotten semi-final

The two legs against Borussia in 1978 seem to have swerved the history books, writes *David Cottrell*...

I remember almost as if it were yesterday. Rainer Bonhof, standing hands-on-hips at the intersection of halfway and touchline, preparing to take a free-kick. The glare of the Anfield floodlights refracted through a big bulb of snot about to fall from his nose like the drip of a faulty tap. And my 'owldfella' suddenly leaping up from the front row of the Kemlyn, brandishing a piece of chocolate and shouting, "Ere are Bonhof lad – wanna piece of me Mars Bar?" To this day I have no idea why my late father did this, but at the time it felt so right.

I'll never know, either, why we were in Kemlyn's Row 1 that night as part of the 51,500 crowd, but that's incidental. Wednesday 12 April 1978. European Cup semi-final, second leg. Liverpool 3 Borussia Moenchengladbach 0, aggregate 4-2. A thumping close-range header from Ray Kennedy; a low hooked effort from Kenny Dalglish, also at the Anfield Road end; and finally a left-foot piledriver from Jimmy Case in front of the Kop.


WEMBLE
HERE WE COME!

Thirty-six years on I've finally seen footage of those goals for the first time – on YouTube, with French commentary. All of us were better acquainted with the first-leg defeat in Dusseldorf when Bonhof's 88th-minute free-kick bent away from Ray Clemence's gloves (I blame those black-and-white panelled balls, but I did love that white Borussia jersey with the big 'B' and leaping Puma logo, and you had to dig that exotic umlaut).

But that second leg? For some reason, clear at the time but forgotten now, there were no TV highlights. There was a lap of honour at the end I still recall, but I hadn't remembered that this was also Graeme Souness' first full European appearance for the club. Quite good in the next one too, wasn't he? For me, as LFC holy grails go, the footage was up there with the Jan Molby wonder-strike v Manchester United in the Milk Cup, and a 2-0 midweek win over Nottingham Forest in February 1980 when Terry McDermott and Ray Kennedy scored in the last 10 minutes to bury the old Forest hoodoo. Still not seen the latter.



Reaction in the papers and LFC programme and (below) Case's goal

Three years ago, after a forgetful Friday-night, eve-of-New Year's Eve win over Newcastle United at Anfield, I ended up in Flanagan's Apple on Liverpool's Mathew Street – not a usual haunt and on this occasion packed upstairs with German Reds all over for the match. The enduring ties between LFC and Borussia Moenchengladbach fans are well documented, and here they were with their own mad flags, songs and, er, Irish jig band. It never occurred to me to ask if they'd ever seen the 1978 second leg on TV themselves.

I kept the LFC match programme plus the following day's *Daily Mirror*, and in time acquired a black-and-white print taken by some German photographer of Terry Mac standing next to a Borussia wall for a Liverpool free-kick, with a sea of faces behind them in the Anfield Road end. That night, in a proper old European atmosphere, Moenchengladbach were pretty much beaten from the start.








THE ANFIELD REVIEW

5p

E.U.F.A. CUP FINAL

NFIELD ... ILDING SOCIETY

WEDNESDAY
MAY 9th, 1973
(First leg)
Kick-off 7.30 p.m.



LIVERPOOL versus BORUSSIA MÖNCHENGLADBACH



HOW WE WON THE LEAGUE... AGAIN!

American goalkeeper Libby Stout ended her first season with Liverpool Ladies as a champion and her team-mates' player of the year. In this exclusive two-parter she talks us through the rollercoaster Women's Super League ride

PART ONE



Libby with fellow goalie Danielle Gibbons and the WSL trophy


Libby punches clear on her FA WSL debut

MATCHDAY 1
17 April 2014
Liverpool 1 Manchester City 0

This was a really big game because there was so much excitement at the beginning of the new season, especially with Man City being a new team to the league. We had a really big crowd for that game (1,572). We were a bit nervous and you could tell the flow of the game wasn't great. In all honesty, it was a bit of an ugly match. Neither team had that many chances but I was lucky enough to make some crucial saves. We also put in good work at the other end of the field and scored the vital goal from Tash Dowie. We also had one disallowed in the first half from Kate Longhurst which seemed quite harsh. It might have settled us down a bit had that stood. Overall we were happy to get out with the win and that propelled us forward because we knew we were competing against a very talented team in Man City. From a personal point of view too, it was nice to start with a clean sheet on my league debut.

MATCHDAY 2
20 April 2014
Chelsea 0 Liverpool 0

I have painful memories of this fixture! I had to leave the field in the second half after suffering concussion, so that was quite tough. [Fellow keeper] Danielle Gibbons came on and had a really big game for us, making some crucial saves. I remember leaving that game thinking a 0-0 draw was a good result for us because they had more chances and looked more dangerous than we did. My head swelled up to quite a size afterwards and it wasn't a pretty sight, although I remember Fara Williams had been yelling at me to stay on! Unfortunately I was sick during the bus ride back to Liverpool and went to the hospital as soon as we arrived home. I was looked after really well but it was about 4am by the time I got home so it was a long old day! It was a tough fixture which we needed to grit out, so to get a tie and a point was important. The way things turned out, Chelsea were one of our main rivals for the title, so all things considered the 0-0 scoreline wasn't a bad outcome.

LIBBY STOUT FACTFILE

Position: Goalkeeper
Age: 24.
Birthplace: Louisville, Kentucky
International: United States Under-20s and U23s
Previous clubs: Femin Yzeure Allier Auvergne (France), BV Cloppenburg (Germany)



Amanda Da Costa in action at Chelsea

MATCHDAY 3
18 May 2014 Notts County 0 Liverpool 0

This was another game where we weren't able to get our flow and didn't have as many attempts on goal as we would've liked. We struggled a little bit on the Meadow Lane pitch which was a bit choppy. But, again, our defensive performance was solid enough because they didn't have a lot of opportunities either. I think the scoreline reflected what happened and neither team really deserved the win. I remember making a good save from [County striker] Jess Clarke – I robbed her of a goal into the top corner! She was mad at the end. I had never met her before but she said she wasn't very happy with me!

Up to this point we hadn't conceded in the league. As a keeper you are always pleased when you don't concede as that's your job – not to let the ball in the net – but I'm also quick to say it's not just me. It's very much a total defensive performance – not just the defenders or the keeper but everyone from front to back. They made my job easy the whole year.

For me, it's about staying switched-on. Because our defence is so strong I don't always have to make a lot of saves. So it's about staying focused for when I have to make that stop. I have various concentration techniques. I jump around and stretch and I've also become a very visual person. I will go through things that I know I might do in the game in my mind and literally just do them – without the ball or anyone near me. The girls make fun of me because I look a little bit mad, but it's important to stay alert and make sure that I don't let my mind float around too much.


Lucy Bronze keeps an eye on Jess Clarke

Fara Williams scores from the penalty spot

MATCHDAY 4
24 May 2014 Liverpool 1 Birmingham City 1

A game of two penalties. We were really frustrated because we knew we deserved to win. There were some calls which didn't go our way, especially Birmingham's penalty. It was called on me and I know for a fact that I did not foul her! But it is what it is, and you can't control those decisions.

Overall I think we had a better game that day. We were going into the summer break and wanted to win to put ourselves into a decent position for the second phase of games. But we were able at least to take a point.

We were also reeling from injuries. We'd lost two key players in Nici Rolser and Lucy Staniforth to ACL injuries in pre-season and there were other knocks, too, so to come out of those first four games without losing was more than we could've asked for. We were a little bit disappointed going into the break with the three draws, but on the flip side we were also pleased not to have lost.

MATCHDAY 5
29 June 2014 Liverpool 0 Arsenal 1

As an overseas player the summer break allowed me to go home, see my family and re-focus. We were all geared up for the game against Arsenal but on the Monday before, I was kicking balls in training with Gibbo [Danielle Gibbons] when I pulled my anterior tibialis [a small shin muscle]. I literally could not kick a ball. That was disappointing, especially after coming back from the break feeling ready to start going again.

It was an important match for us because Arsenal had had a bit of a rocky start to the season but they came back with some strong performances. A scrappy goal from Casey Stoney decided the game.

We'd held a team meeting as soon as we came back from the break and said: this is what we need to win the league. We felt we could afford to drop four points – a loss and a tie. So when we lost that game we were thinking: oh man, that's three points down the drain. We'd felt that we needed 32 points to win the league again. In the end we won it with 26 as the teams kept taking points off each other which showed how strong the league was across the board.


Able deputy Danielle Gibbons

MATCHDAY 6
16 July 2014
Liverpool 1 Everton 0

This was a really big fixture for us, especially on the back of that Arsenal defeat. We had already played Everton twice in cup competitions, but I had missed those games as a result of my concussion in the game at Chelsea. So this was my first derby and I wanted to come out on top.

To get a shut-out was important. They came out quite strong and I think they had a chance on goal almost straight from kick-off, so I had to make a big save almost right away. From there we were able to calm down and managed to get ahead through a really good finish from Kate Longhurst.

Seeing out those matches is always tough. There's something of an added pressure when you're ahead as you know that you can't afford to make a mistake. Everton ended up being relegated, but I came to find those derbies were extremely difficult games for us. It doesn't really matter so much who was more skilled, it was more who could grit it out and bust out a win.



Derby delight for Kate Longhurst and Fara

Katrin Omarsdottir and team-mates enjoy a bright day at Bristol

MATCHDAY 7
19 July 2014
Bristol Academy 1
Liverpool 3

This was the first time in the year where we really put together a complete performance. There were torrential downpours before that match. The field was beautiful but there must have been about two or three inches of rain sitting on it, so I think that was in our heads a little bit as we started off quite slowly. They had some real chances but we scored through Gemma Davison and Katrin Omarsdottir.

Gemma Bonner extended our lead before a little a lapse allowed them to pull a goal back before the end. This was the first time we played our 3-5-2 system in the league and we executed it pretty well. I was really proud of the performance we put in that day.

This victory was a big confidence-booster. Coming off the wins over Everton and Bristol, I felt that we had a chance to achieve something.

FA WSL TABLE ON 20 JULY 14

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Birmingham	7	5	2	0	10	3	7	17
Chelsea	7	4	2	1	9	5	4	17
Liverpool	7	3	3	1	6	3	3	12
Man City	7	3	0	4	5	7	-2	9
Bristol Acad	6	2	1	3	7	8	-1	7
Arsenal	7	2	1	4	5	9	-4	7
Notts County	7	1	3	2	3	3	0	6
Everton	7	0	2	5	3	10	-7	2

TO BE CONTINUED...


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We are the champions

Anfield was the setting as title-holders Liverpool Ladies enjoyed a memorable awards dinner



Ian Ayre with England legend Fara Williams

Following those euphoric title celebrations on the last thrilling day of the season, Liverpool Ladies shared more honours at their annual awards dinner. The Anfield evening was sponsored by the club's official wellness partner Vitality and celebrated a second successive FA Women's Super League title.

Goalkeeper Libby Stout was named Players' Player of the Year in recognition of a fine first season with the club. She said: "This means more to me than you can know. If I could give the award back to someone I'd share it with all my team-mates as they have all been fantastic and made it really easy to settle in."

Defender Becky Easton received the Supporters' Player of the Year accolade. "I thought this would go to a flair player or a goalscorer so I'm incredibly proud to receive it."

Matt Beard's Manager's Player of the Year award went to Fara Williams, who also received a special club-recognition award after a season which saw her become England's most-capped player. She said: "I would like to thank Matt and my team-mates for all they have done for me. Since moving to Liverpool two years ago I feel I have been playing the best football of my career. Winning 132 caps for England is a great achievement for my family and I. Hopefully there will be more to come."

Other winners were Katie Zelem, who scooped the Young Player of the Year award, and Lucy Bronze, Vitality Player of the Year. Club managing director Ian Ayre said: "Celebrating a league title at the annual dinner has become a habit and we're extremely proud of what the team has achieved."

"Toasting the title at the awards dinner has become an annual event!"



Manager Matt Beard


Katie Zelem with Natasha Dowie


Winners parade


Captain Gemma Bonner



Players' Player winner Libby Stout


German duo Nicole Rolser and Corina Schroder





Award winner Jordan Rossiter with Academy assistant boss Phil Roscoe



Gorodn Milne and Roger Hunt



Chris Lawler, Ian Callaghan, broadcaster John Keith and Ian St John









The lads on stage

WE WON THE CUP

Anfield also staged an historic reunion for Liverpool FC's 1964/65 FA Cup winners

Following last year's 1963/64 title-winners reunion, Anfield again played host to another fabulous 50th-year anniversary from the Bill Shankly era – this time for the boys in red who clinched the FA Cup for the very first time in the club's history.

Organised impeccably once more by the Merseyside branch of the Official Liverpool FC Supporters Club, and compered by Five Live's Gary Flintoff, LFC statistician Dave Ball and 'the voice of Anfield' George Sephton, the event for the 1964/65 cup kings took place in a packed Champions Suite inside the Centenary Stand. The evening also commemorated 50 years of the Reds in Europe.



Among those 60s stalwarts present were: midfielder Gordon Milne; inside-forward Gordon Wallace; goalkeeper Tommy Lawrence; left-half Willie Stevenson; winger Ian Callaghan; full-back Chris Lawler; centre-half and skipper Ron Yeats; and forwards Ian St John, Roger Hunt and Bobby Graham.

The ex-players entertained the assembled guests with tales from Wembley and Europe, and there was a raffle and stand-up bingo to keep fans on their toes – literally!

Academy players also attended, and young midfielder Jordan Rossiter received the LFCOSC Merseyside young player of the year award.

After a rousing rendition of *You'll Never Walk Alone* the legends chatted with fans and signed memorabilia. Altogether an unforgettable evening for those lucky enough to attend.



You can follow the Merseyside branch of the Official Liverpool FC Supporters Club on Twitter @LFCMERSEYSIDE





Reds fan Alan Mullock, club statisticians Ged Rea and Dave Ball, and the BBC's Steve Wilson







Roger Hunt, Tommy Lawrence, Willie Stevenson, Gordon Milne, Brian Hall and Ron Yeats



Reds writer Jegsy Dodd and partner Hema







John Keith, George Sephton and Dave Ball


LIVERPOOL

This month's FA Youth Cup tie provides the perfect stage for Liverpool FC's next generation

Neil MELLOR



December marks the return of the FA Youth Cup, a competition in which Liverpool have excelled in the past.

The Youth Cup is the most competitive element of youth football. It matters. It's where young players develop a winning mentality because it's a knock-out competition and there's no margin for error. You feel pressure a lot more – and that's a good thing.

The ultimate aim is to reach the first team but you want to get to senior level having achieved something already. It gains you more respect.

In 2001 we drew with Chelsea 1-1 in one of the early rounds at Anfield then went down to Stamford Bridge and thrashed them 7-1. Chelsea were being talked about as potential winners of the tournament with Robert Huth and Carlton Cole in their side. It was a brilliant feeling, going away and hammering a rival. It inspired confidence as a team and individually.

Like Michael Owen before me, I scored in every round that season. We reached the semi-finals, losing on penalties to Blackburn Rovers, having drawn at Anfield and then at Ewood Park in front of 17,000 people. Blackburn were a physical, hard-working side that eventually lost to Arsenal in the final. It's a regret that we didn't beat them. Unfortunately I missed a penalty in the shoot-out and it hurt at the time.

Despite the disappointment I took a lot from the whole experience. It put my name forward as an up-and-coming young player. It's simple: if you do well, you get noticed more – that's by the senior management, the coaches, the fans and the press as well. After each good performance I'd buy the Liverpool Echo and read the report the following morning. It gave me a buzz seeing my name.

"The Youth Cup is a little glimpse of what pro football is really like"



The Youth Cup is a platform to display just how good a player you are. You are playing in real stadiums, in front of supporters of both teams, with reporters watching in the press boxes. It's a glimpse of what it's really like as a professional footballer.

This year, Liverpool will play Bradford City in the third round. Liverpool are fortunate in that they are categorised in Group 1 of the academy structure, meaning they play against a better standard of opposition regularly. But as we saw last season, it often counts for little in the cup. At this stage, Blackpool raised their game and Liverpool were lucky to progress to the fourth round on penalties. Scares happen if you don't perform to the levels that you are capable of.

This season Liverpool have a strong U18s team because a lot of the players have played for the U21s. In theory when these players return to the junior level they should find it easier. Liverpool will be at home in the third round. If you play for LFC in any game at Anfield you're expected to win.

Of course it's very important for every member of the team to realise that success in the Youth Cup does not define you as a player, particularly at a club the size of Liverpool where progression is not an exact science.

If Liverpool got knocked out in the third round in the Youth Cup but managed to get a player into the first team, it would be deemed a successful season for the Academy set-up. Personally the young lads won't want that. They'll be determined to create a positive memory which they can carry throughout their careers.

Follow Neil on Twitter @NeilMellor33



The bit at the back for Liverpool FC's legions of fans at home and all over the world...









THE MONTH AHEAD

DEC

Swiss role

It has been something of a topsy-turvy first season back in the UEFA Champions league for the Reds.

Brendan Rodgers' men conclude their UEFA Champions League group phase fixtures against FC Basel on matchday six. The Reds welcome Paulo Sousa's side to Anfield on Tuesday 9 December.

Liverpool will be keen to avenge the 1-0 defeat they suffered in Switzerland at the start of October when Marco Streller's goal decided the outcome.

Ex-LFC defender Philipp Degen could be in Basel's travelling party.

LFC will be aiming to avenge their 1-0 defeat back in October

Should Liverpool be successful in progressing from Group B, they will figure in the draw for the Round of 16 which will take place at UEFA's headquarters in Nyon on Monday 15 December. Fingers crossed...





BIRTHDAY REDS

Diego Cavalieri 32 on 1 Dec
Steve Nicol 53 on 11 Dec
Stephen Warnock 33 on 12 Dec
Stig Inge Bjornebye 45 on 11 Dec
Martin Skrtel 30 on 15 Dec
Daniel Agger 30 on 12 Dec
Nigel Spackman 54 on 2 Dec
Istvan Kozma 50 on 3 Dec
Charlie Adam 29 on 10 Dec
Terry McDermott 63 on 8 Dec
Gary McAllister 50 on 25 Dec
Raheem Sterling 20 on 8 Dec
Jordon Ibe 19 on 8 Dec
Michael Owen 35 on 14 Dec
Ryan Babel 28 on 19 Dec



Anniversaries

15 years since Steven Gerrard scored his first Liverpool goal on 5 Dec (v Sheffield Wednesday)
30 years since Jan Molby netted his first Liverpool goal on 1 Dec
34 years since Ian Rush made his debut on 13 Dec (at Ipswich Town)
47 years since Liverpool defeated Hamburg 6-0 in the UEFA European Super Cup on 6 Dec
89 years since Gordon Hodgson signed for Liverpool on 14 Dec
122 years since Matt McQueen scored his first LFC goal on 3 Dec

Quick on the draw

Next year of course marks the 50th anniversary of Liverpool's first FA Cup triumph. The team will kick off the first weekend of 2015 in third -round action and fans can tune in to find out the identity of their opponents when the draw takes place on Monday 8 December. Under the terms of a new agreement, the draws will be broadcast live on BBC television and radio.



Cherry Christmas

Liverpool's bid to reach the semis of the Capital One Cup takes them to Bournemouth on Wednesday 17 December. The Cherries are among the pacesetters in the Sky Bet Championship and Eddie Howe's side have already beaten Exeter, Northampton, Cardiff and West Brom to reach the quarter-finals. The teams last met in the fourth round of the FA Cup last term with LFC winning 2-0.

SEASON TICKET HOLDERS

As a Season Ticket Holder there will be times when you cannot make it to a Barclays Premier League home match due to holidays or other commitments. If so, don't let your seat go empty and lose out on the opportunity to receive credit against the cost of your Season Ticket next summer.

Use the online Ticket Exchange service to release your ticket. You can use this service as many times as you want during the season. For more information regarding the Ticket Exchange please visit: www.liverpoolfc.com/tickets/ticket-exchange.



FIXTURE LIST 2014/2015

AUGUST

17	**Southampton (H)**	**2-1**
25	**Manchester City** (A)	1-3
31	**Tottenham Hotspur** (A)	3-0

SEPTEMBER

13	**Aston Villa (H)**	**0-1**
16	**PFC Ludogorets 1945 (H, UCL)**	**2-1**
20	**West Ham United** (A)	1-3
23	**Middlesbrough (H, COC 3)**	**2-2***
27	**Everton (H)**	**1-1**

OCTOBER

1	**FC Basel 1893** (A, UCL)	0-1
4	**West Bromwich Albion (H)**	**2-1**
19	**Queens Park Rangers** (A)	3-2
22	**Real Madrid (H, UCL)**	**0-3**
25	**Hull City (H)**	**0-0**
28	**Swansea City (H, COC 4)**	**2-1**

NOVEMBER

1	**Newcastle United**	0-1
4	**Real Madrid** (A, UCL)	0-1
8	**Chelsea (H)**	**1-2**
23	**Crystal Palace** (A)	1-3
26	**PFC Ludogorets 1945 (A)**	
29	**Stoke City (H, 3pm)**	

DECEMBER

2	**Leicester City** (A, 7.45pm)
6	**Sunderland (H, 3pm)**
9	**FC Basel 1893 (H, 7.45pm, UCL)**
14	**Manchester United** (A, 1.30pm)
16/17	**Capital One Cup** fifth round
21	**Arsenal (H, 4pm)**
26	**Burnley** (A, 3pm)
29	**Swansea City (H, 8pm)**

JANUARY

1	**Leicester City** (H)
3	**FA Cup** third round
10	**Sunderland** (A)
17	**Aston Villa** (A)
21	**Capital One Cup** semi-final first leg
24	**FA Cup** fourth round
28	**Capital One Cup** semi-final second leg
31	**West Ham United** (H)

FEBRUARY

7	**Everton** (A)
10	**Tottenham Hotspur** (H)
14	**FA Cup fifth round**
17/18	**Champions League** round of 16 (1)
21	**Southampton** (A)
24/25	**Champions League** round of 16 (2)
28	**Manchester City** (H)

MARCH

1	**Capital One Cup** final
3	**Burnley** (H)
7	**FA Cup** quarter-finals
14	**Swansea City** (A)
21	**Manchester United** (H)

APRIL

4	**Arsenal** (A)
11	**Newcastle United** (H)
4/15	**Champions League** quarter-finals (1)
18	**Hull City** (A) / **FA Cup** semi-finals
21/22	**Champions League** quarter-finals (2)
25	**West Bromwich Albion** (A)

MAY

2	**Queens Park Rangers** (H)
5/6	**Champions Lge** semi-finals (1)
9	**Chelsea** (A)
12/13	**Champions Lge** semi-finals (2)
16	**Crystal Palace** (H)
24	**Stoke City** (A)
30	**FA Cup** final

JUNE

6	**Champions Leage** final

* LFC won on penalties

All kick-off times are BST. All Barclays Premier League fixtures are subject to change for the requirements of television and/or for other reasons such as police requests.

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Working with children and adults to help inspire positive change through sport – follow us on Twitter **@LFCFoundation** to keep up to date with the community team's projects and activities

FOUNDATION'S COLLEGE OF DREAMS

Two pupils earn scholarships with football clubs after studying at a Football College with a difference

Two students from Liverpool FC Foundation's Football College have realised their dreams by signing contracts with football clubs. Callum Grogan impressed in a pre-season game at Shrewsbury Town and earned a two-year scholarship with the League Two club, while Christian Langos has signed a two-year deal with Northern Premier League side Marine.

Based at the University of Liverpool's Wyncote Sports Ground, the College is open to boys and girls between 16 and 19 years and provides football and coaching training alongside a suite of academic qualifications. Carl Macauley, head coach, said: "I am very proud of the achievements of both students as are all the staff and students and I look forward to seeing their continued progress in the future."

Pupils and coaches at the Football College

Meanwhile the College will once again take part in the Dr Pepper Dallas Cup, one of the biggest youth tournaments in the world. Following on from a successful 2014 debut, this next visit to the United States takes place in March with 36 College players in two squads (U19 and U17) set to compete.

To find out more email info@lfcfoundationcollege.com. And follow on Twitter @LFCFootyCollege.

THE POWER OF FOOTBALL

Liverpool FC Foundation pays a second successful visit to Indonesian capital

Liverpool FC Foundation community coaches returned to Jakarta in November to deliver training with the club's charity partner from the 2013 pre-season tour, Gocekz Project.

It was the Foundation's second visit to Indonesia this year. Garuda Indonesia, the club's official training kit partner, provided apparel for the children taking part. Gocekz is a social-inclusion project established through the Premier League and British Council's international community development programme, Premier Skills, to develop a brighter future for young people around the world using the power of football. Last year the scheme trained 2,300 coaches and referees in 21 countries across Asia, Africa and the Americas, who in turn have reached a further 500,000 young people. By 2016 it aims to train a further 3,000 and through them reach more than 300,000 young people. Forbes Duff, the Foundation's international activity manager, describes it as "a great project that creates many opportunities for young people to engage in sport, which fits perfectly with our ethos."



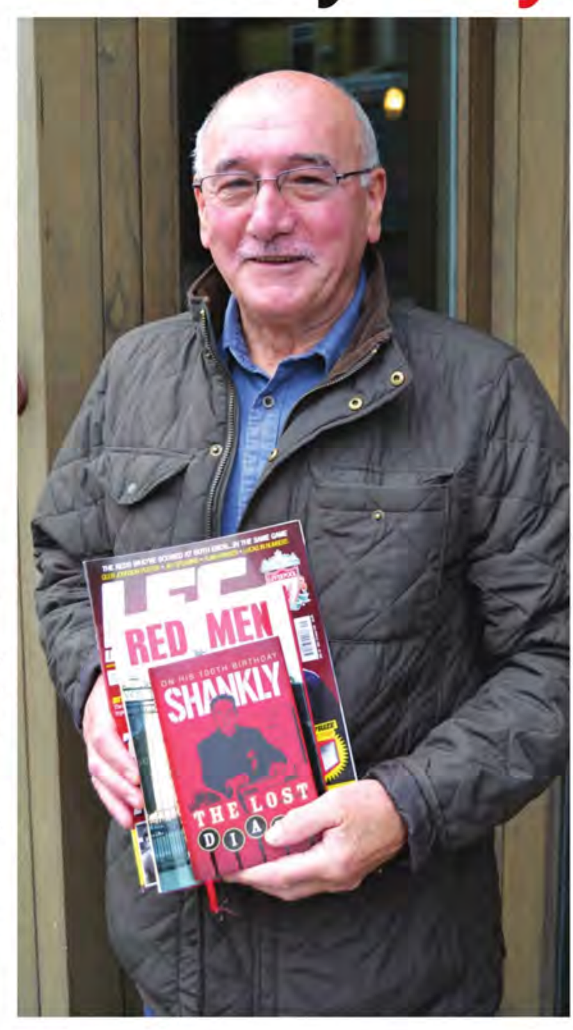
Foundation coach Vicky Jepson with children in Jakarta

Foundation coaches also visited Bulgaria to deliver training sessions with children during the trip to Sofia for the Champions League game against Ludogorets. In partnership with the British Embassy and UNICEF, the Foundation delivered its sessions to 50 children from disadvantaged backgrounds. A signed LFC jersey, ball and a PS4 FIFA 15 game signed by Daniel Sturridge was auctioned to raise funds for UNICEF.

Bill Shankly boy

Phil Tinney was a Bill Shankly signing who never quite made it here – but hit the big time in the USA

Back in the summer of 1962, as his promotion-winning team prepared for its first season back in the top flight for eight years, Bill Shankly discussed youth development in a column for the *Liverpool Echo*. "I've brought to Anfield a number of boys who attracted my attention as youngsters out of the ordinary," he announced. One of these was a Scottish lad named Phil Tinney. Now 69 years old, he looks back upon life at Liverpool and working with Shanks…



Phil, can you tell us how the move to Liverpool happened?

I grew up in Dundee, one of six kids who lived with our parents and an uncle in a two-bedroom flat – that was considered luxury. We couldn't afford a football but used a sock stuffed with paper. By the age of 12 I was convinced I was going to be a footballer. Georgie Johnson, a Liverpool scout, asked me for a trial in early 1960. We played one game at Melwood and I had a stinker. Then Shankly came in, handed me a piece of paper and said, 'Sign that'. There was no discussion. I was 15.

Towards the end of the 1959/60 season you moved to Merseyside...

I was put in digs at 258 Anfield Road, with a lady called Mrs Murphy. At first I was a little homesick but the biggest change was suddenly getting three square meals per day. Our wages were £7 – half of that went on digs. I'd send a few bob home too. My days involved painting the stands or repairing the pitch at Anfield. When the work was done we'd play a five-a-side

"I had a stinker in my trial but Shankly came over and said: sign that"



Phil playing at Melwood

"I was the 12th man for a derby at Everton in front of 66,000 people"

against Shanks, Joe Fagan, Reuben Bennett, Bob Paisley and the rest of the coaching staff in the car-park. If the numbers were short, one of the binmen would join in.

Was the route to the Liverpool first team different then?

It went: C team, B team, A team, reserves then first team. We were the C team. I'd been a winger when I arrived but ended up playing at left-back. When I was 17 Shankly called me in and said, 'I've been told you'll never make a full-back'. I could have told him that! So I moved out on the wing again and scored around 10 goals in the remaining games. That ensured I was kept on.

You played in the 1963 FA Youth Cup final - what can you recall about that?

We had a decent side with players like Tommy Smith and Bobby Graham, who got a hat-trick on his league debut for the first team. I scored a few goals on the way to the final against West Ham. We went 5-2 up on aggregate in the second leg before our goalkeeper, Rodney Swindlehurst, got injured. With him unable to continue we ended up losing 6-5.

How close did you come to a first-team appearance?

Back then there were no substitutes, so an extra man went along just in case somebody had to withdraw. In February 1964 I was that 12th man for the derby at Goodison Park, with over 66,000 people there. Walking out in front of such a crowd was terrifying. A few weeks later Bob Paisley told me to go to the club tailor to get measured for a suit, as I was to be included in the squad for the summer tour to North America.

But you didn't go on the tour - how come?

No. Near the end of the season I got a message saying the boss wanted me in his office. Alex Totten, another young pro, was there too. Shanks told us we were getting a free transfer. His brother Bob was in charge of Dundee and he recommended we go there. The bottom instantly fell out of my world. I decided I would get the train home the next day. When I got on at Lime Street I bumped into Shanks, who was on his way up to Scotland for a schoolboys game. He couldn't look at me. I think he found the situation upsetting.

In 1963 Dundee had got to the semi-finals of the European Cup but they were now on their way down – training was poor and some of the older players' attitudes were wrong. I played one game, scored one goal and got injured. Then I was released.

Your next destination was the Dutch league...

I was courting a girl named Linda – she's now my wife – so I came back to Liverpool after being let go by Dundee. I went to my old digs and there was a letter from a Dutch team called Heracles. They'd included a plane ticket as they wanted me to go over for a trial. I did and after a few days they asked what signing-on fee I wanted. I chanced my arm and asked for £1,000. They offered half. I was on about £50 per week and they paid for my accommodation. I lived with a Dutch couple who couldn't speak English. That made it difficult to settle.

I got in the Heracles team at the start of season 1965/66 but was in and out after that. At Christmas I went home and, while there, decided I'd had enough of being away. I returned to Holland and withdrew all of my money from the bank. The bank manager must have told someone at Heracles. They said I couldn't just leave as it would be a breach of contract. I ignored them. I got back to Liverpool on 15 January 1966. It was my 21st birthday and I went out that night with Tommy Smith and Gerry Byrne.





In Tornado kit (above) and polishing his boots

What happened next?

Stockport County wanted to sign me but FIFA sent me a letter – they banned me worldwide for five years, 1965 to 70. I ended up playing Sunday League in Kirkdale and working nights for a company called English Electric.

Then America provided you with a fresh start...

The new league in the USA wasn't affiliated to FIFA – that meant my ban didn't count. A guy called Walt Chyzowych from Philadelphia Spartans came to the Lord Nelson Hotel in Liverpool [Chyzowych later became manager of the US national team]. He offered me $4,000 to sign and $1,000 per month. I didn't need to think about it.



There was a lot of razzmatazz. [NFL legend] Art Rooney, who had been a friend of President Kennedy and was the owner of the Pittsburgh Steelers, was in charge of the Spartans. Planes were held up for us and we got a lot of attention. The team was made up of lads from all over the world, the best was an Argentine named Ruben Navarro. He'd played at the 1962 World Cup and was an aggressive centre-back. I nutmegged him once in training. "Do that again and I'll kill you," he warned. After one season the league was accepted by FIFA – that meant I was out again.

Your time in the States didn't end there...

A Scouse lad named John Best, who was with the Dallas Tornado, asked if I'd like to join them. I signed as an amateur initially, which got me around the ban. Prior to soccer in America you never heard too much about assists but they were big into stats – at one time I was the leading assist-maker. We won the title in my second year, 1971, and got to the semi-finals of the play-offs the next year.

By then I was married so I needed to earn some money during the off-season. Back home I signed for Wigan Athletic, then in the Northern Premier League, and scored on my debut. In the final minute of the next game I broke my leg. After it healed I couldn't kick a ball properly. I was 27 and unable to play at a high level. Instead I got involved in local football in Maghull and played there until I was 47. I also started working in childcare.

"A Scouse lad with Dallas Tornado asked me if I'd like to join them"

Any regrets?

Not really. I made some wrong decisions and there were decisions made for me that I disagree with. When it comes to Liverpool I would have been competing for a place in the team with Peter Thompson. That was almost impossible – he was magic. But I'm not bitter about any of it – and I still support Liverpool now.

Interview: John Hynes



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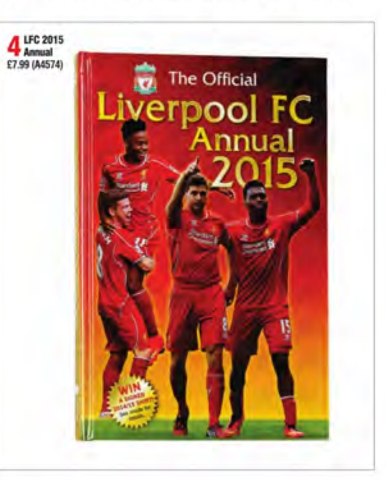
WISH LIST

Welcome to Santa's grotto – LFC style! There's still time to get those all-important gifts for your nearest and dearest. The full range of Reds prezzies is available in all Official Liverpool FC Stores and at liverpoolfc.com/store with free Click & Collect to all the Club's UK stores

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WIN! TWO MASSIVE LFC BOOKS

Liverpool The Complete Record and The Liverpool Encyclopedia

We've got three copies of two utterly fact-tastic Liverpool FC books to give away, courtesy of authors Arnie Baldursson and Gudmundur Magnusson – the duo behind the popular website www.lfchistory.net.

LIVERPOOL THE COMPLETE RECORD is the definitive account of the club from 1892 to the modern day – so much so, it even includes every friendly fixture in which the Reds have participated. It normally retails at £25 and broadcaster John Keith calls it "the best book about Liverpool Football Club I have ever seen."

Meanwhile the lavish **LIVERPOOL ENCYCLOPEDIA** chronicles all the individuals and incidents that have been part of LFC's incredible story, with full biographies of every player to represent the first team. It's big and beautiful and normally costs £37.50.

For a chance to win both books simply answer the following question: WHAT IS LIVERPOOL FC'S RECORD WIN, AND AGAINST WHOM?

The closing date for competition entries is Friday 2 January 2015. Just email your answers – including your name and address – to lfcmagazine@pml.media. Please put BOOK DOUBLE COMPO in the subject bar. We'll announce the winners in a forthcoming issue.



Luis Garcia Instagram

luchogarcia14



23 October
HAPPY DIWALI INDIA



13 October
Sangria time… Thanks LFC supporters from Kolkata for the banner #YNWA #INDIA



10 October
2 days for the inaugural game!!! Kolkata city centre looks great #atk #ISL



27 August
August 26th of 2005 UEFA Super Cup #lfc #ynwa #oldtimes #memories



23 August
Fun night with the lads! Few "didi shandys" before #legends #belfast #5times #soccerspeaker



20 August
On this day 10 years ago I met this guy #newsigns #lfc #memories #xabi #legend



5 August
2 am. I call it LOVE... For football Liverpool v Manchester United



24 July
The Belfast Waterfront 21st August shirt... #lfc #5times #ynwa #whatanight



28 June
One of the pics that bring a smile to my face every time #lookingback #lfc #championsleague #5times



10 June
Not every day you can talk with a World Champion. Good to see you mate #lfc #realmadrid #spain



3 June
Welcome @stevengerrard to Instagram... can't believe it



21 April
Thank you very much, can't say with words what I feel playing back at Anfield #ynwa

David PRICE

In praise of ex-teenager Raheem Sterling, from whom the best is yet to come



"He is set to become one of the youngest LFC players to make 100 apps"

Raheem Sterling turns 20 this month and it's exciting to think about the progress that he has made since being handed his Liverpool first-team debut in 2012.

He is set to become one of the youngest players in the club's history to make 100 appearances and that's testament to the way he has developed during the past 18 months.

We all knew about Sterling. He was one of the young players coming through that everybody had heard about, we had seen him in the youth teams on LFCTV and were expecting big things from him.

When he initially came into the first-team you could see that he had the talent and the potential but, for me, there was something missing. I know he was only a kid but, to be honest, I wasn't completely sold and he had an indifferent start.

That moment where he was reprimanded by Brendan Rodgers on the *Being: Liverpool* documentary in the summer of 2012 received a lot of attention. But I'm sure the manager only did it because he knew what the player was capable of. At that stage of his career it would have done a 17-year-old kid no favours to keep throwing him bouquets of flowers and telling him he was the best.

Raheem probably went away and thought: let's prove this fella wrong. And that was probably in the manager's thinking. It seems as though Brendan has been a bit of a father figure to him and I think he's benefited from that.

Then something seemed to click last season. He was a key player and an integral part of the team and he's gone from strength to strength since. By the looks of it he's matured on and off the pitch and carries the responsibility of the person he now is: a top footballer for a top club and an England international. He has a lot of people who look up to him and he's doing a good job of being a role model.

Because of his pace, skill and movement, people mentioned him in the same breath as John Barnes when he started playing. When he receives the ball, you get the same kind of sense of anticipation you used to when you would see Barnes or Steve McManaman running down the wing.

Last season I remember reading Steven Gerrard saying that pound-for-pound Sterling is the strongest player at the club. When you first look at him you'd think that if someone barged into him, he'd end up in the Kemlyn Road stand – but not a bit of it. He's solid and that's great to see. He doesn't shy away from a challenge either. The commitment is there and that's something that you can't buy.

When you think about what he could be like when he's approaching his peak in five years, it's extremely exciting and I'm delighted he's a Liverpool player.

David takes on Emilio Ezequiel Zarate at the EWE Arena in Oldenburg, Germany on Saturday 6 December. The fight will be broadcast live on Channel Five.

Follow David on Twitter @DavidPrice_1


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